

THE SPORTS TRAIL

By Whitney Martin



NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—(P)—Well, as one fellow was saying, indoor training for the major league baseball clubs may be fine, but he wouldn't want to be within six miles of the place when the players started taking batting practice in a gymnasium or field house.

And it would seem that batting practice would be the major problem in such training at that.

An athlete can get himself in superb condition indoors. He can melt away excess suet by galloping around the running track. A dirt floor can provide fielding practice, at least for ground balls. A sliding pit can be installed easily. The pitchers can get all the work they need. Even the bat boys can practice scurrying out toward an imaginary plate and scurrying back to the shadows.

But batting is something else again, and if there is anything any team needs more than batting practice it is more batting practice, and to get that in the 2 x 4 setting of a gymnasium is a problem for the engineering department. It's too much like learning to swim in a bathtub.

The St. Louis Cardinals, and we believe there are other clubs by now, solved the problem of batting practice in limited space a couple of years ago to a certain extent, and the mechanical monster which was something of a joke at that time probably will prove itself an invention of the ages.

We recall the first time we saw this mechanical pitcher down at St. Petersburg. It was tucked away in a corner behind the clubhouse, and aimed into what seemed to be a huge fish net. It would have made the DiMaggios quite homesick.

Someone pulled away a greasy tarpaulin exposing some sort of complicated gadget which looked like it might be the working model of one of these cartoons on how to kill a fly.

Our memory of the details of its operation is hazy, but it seems there were a couple of large rubber belts which served as slings for the slingshot, a trough in which baseballs were lined up like golf balls in the slot at the first tee of a public course, and some kind of a clock arrangement which, when wound, would operate the whole contraption and pop the balls out at regular intervals.

A home plate was in the net at the same distance from the machine as the pitcher's mound would be, and Johnny Mize stood up there expectantly. Somebody pressed a button or pulled a trigger and baseballs began to fly toward the plate, with Mize swinging lustily at each synthetic pitch.

The ball traveled fast enough to make any non-ball player miss it a country mile, and the machine could be set to deliver low balls, high balls, inside balls or outside balls. We aren't sure about curves. Anyway, the batter got plenty of practice, and he could let go without fear of killing anyone as he and the bat and home plate were all alone in the cage, and his hits would swish harmlessly into the net.

The Cardinals gave their machine a pet name such as "Aunt Maud" or "Big Bertha" or something, and we understand other clubs have similar gadgets now, probably with appropriate names. Anyway, it seems to be the solution to the batting practice problem if the weather in the north is not favorable for outdoor practice next spring.

The machine really is quite a wonder, and we understand Billy Southworth planned to start it in some early games last year but gave up the idea when he couldn't teach it to go to its left for a hit.

Segura Captures Crown In Mexico Tennis Meet

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 10.—(P)—Francisco (Pancho) Segura, the two-fisted Ecuadorian court star, won the singles championship at the Pan-American Tennis Tournament today by defeating William Talbert of Cincinnati, fifth ranking United States player, in the finals, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

New Film On Meats To Be Shown Here

There will be a showing of the film "Meat in Romance" by the Health Defense League Monday night at 8 o'clock in the USO building at 4th and Ann streets. This showing is for Zone No. 9, of which Mrs. Leslie Boney is chairman.

All interested persons are urged to attend, especially those in the area of Fifth street to Water street, and from Chestnut street to Castle street.

Recreational Gifts Sporting Goods SNEEDEN CYCLE CO. 114 Market St.

Duke - Maryland Head Southern Loop

DEVILS DEFEND '42 HOOP CROWN BY HEADING LOOP

Maryland Terps Push Blue Devils With Average Of 1000

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 10.—(P)—Duke University's defending champions and a sharpshooting quint from the University of Maryland are off to an early season lead in the Southern Conference basketball campaign with a pair of triumphs each in as many family tests.

Duke's successes were scored over the powerful cage squads, Davidson by 60 to 50 and V. M. I. by a narrow 44 to 43 margin. Maryland's Terps conquered Richmond's highly-regarded team by a 32-28 score and followed this up with a convincing 47-40 decision over a strong North Carolina outfit.

Virginia Tech was the only other of the dozen conference members which have launched their loop careers without one or more defeats. The Blacksburg Gobblers tripped William and Mary, 49-34 in their only start in the circuit.

Only 15 of the 16 conference members remained in the race today as the result of Furman's decision to abandon intercollegiate basketball because of travel restrictions and the fact that the Army is using the gymnasium of the Greenville, S. C. university.

The quints are battling for the right to enter the conference cage tournament which will be played at the close of the season in Raleigh, N. C., to decide the 1943 champions. The eight top-ranking squads in the final standings will be selected for the title affair with the first four finishers earning seeded positions in the ratings. George Washington U., slated to be one of the leading contenders for Duke's crown this season, opens its conference schedule on the road, meeting Duke Monday, North Carolina Tuesday and the North Carolina Naval Pre-Flight quint on Wednesday.

Maryland faces two stern tests at Lexington, meeting Washington and Lee on Friday and V. M. I. on Saturday. North Carolina invades the old dominion Friday for games with Virginia Tech and W. & L. Other games this week which will count in the standings include: Tuesday, Wake Forest at Clemson and Richmond at William and Mary; Wednesday, Virginia Tech at V. M. I., and Saturday, South Carolina at Davidson.

Standings table with columns W, L, P, Pa. and rows for Duke, Maryland, Va. Tech, Davidson, V. M. I., North Carolina State, North Carolina, William and Mary, Richmond, Washington and Lee, Wake Forest, Clemson, George Washington, South Carolina, Citadel.

FELLER'S FATHER PASSES IN HOME

Man Who Reared League's Outstanding Hurler Dies; Bob's On Naval Sea Duty

VAN METER, Iowa, Jan. 10.—(P)—William Feller, the Iowa farmer who groomed his son, Bob, to become a major league pitching star, died today.

Death came to the 56-year old father, seriously ill for several years in the \$25,000 farm home son Bob built for his parents on their 320-acre farm near here.

Bob, who left the Cleveland Indians to join the Navy, is believed to be on sea duty following completion of a gunnery course at Norfolk, Va. He last visited his parents and sister, Marguerite, Dec. 1.

Feller's life was wrapped around the baseball achievements of the son he reared to be a ball player. "Bob just naturally took to baseball," he once remarked. "When he was a tiny lad, he'd beg for baseballs and a bat. By the time he was eight he was pitching in earnest. I got him a catcher's glove and began giving him regular practice."

Bob played shortstop on his dad's neighborhood team until he was 15 when he started relief pitching. When Bob was 16 he pitched the Farmer's Union team which his father managed to a state title.

From the moment Bob joined Cleveland in 1936 his father became an intense follower of the Indians, with emphasis, of course, on what his 17-year old son accomplished. He and his family made as many trips as possible to watch Bob perform in major league parks. Those were thrills that eased an illness

Cows Take Over Famous Augusta Golf Course



Because of the war, the famous Augusta National Golf course at Augusta, Ga., has been turned into a cow pasture. Here are some of the cattle grazing and milling around on the 9th hole approach to the clubhouse. Jones, now an Army Air Corps captain, said the course was lying idle since the Masters' Tournament was cancelled and "so we thought we would add it to the grazing land available for the war effort."

Phillies Still 'In Front' News Of Nation's '43 Sporting World

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—(P)—Dipping into the cracker barrel: that Phillies' sale is again a-buzzin', cousin . . . the word is the price tag'll be between \$200,000 and \$350,000, including the club's debts . . . and you may hear something about it in a couple of weeks if it goes through . . . San Francisco promoters are offering Tony Galento \$7,500 to tangle with Turkey Thompson in this first comeback try . . . no wonder two-ton is training to make a hit tune out of the beer-barrel polka again . . . the Dodgers now are thinking of doing their spring training at Dartmouth . . . how do you think Medwick would look in cap-and-gown? . . . or Durocher, either, for that matter? . . .

Indiana, Wisconsin and defending champion Illinois, pre-season favorites in the Big Ten, came through last night's openers along with Minnesota and Purdue. Illinois whipped Michigan, 47-34, and Indiana stopped Ohio State, 45-37, but Wisconsin needed a last minute field goal to squeeze past Northwestern 67-66. Minnesota had an even narrower squeak, 46-45 over Iowa, and Purdue handed Chicago its 32nd straight conference loss, 49-22.

The brand new standings are due for a little shuffling tomorrow night when eight of the teams go at it again. Illinois will be at Wisconsin, Michigan at Northwestern, Minnesota at Iowa and Ohio State at Indiana. Saturday night's pairings send Indiana to Chicago, Iowa to Illinois, Wisconsin to Michigan and Purdue to Minnesota.

DePaul, one of the top Midwest independents, invades Loyola at Chicago tomorrow night to seek its 12th win in 13 starts and plays Western Michigan there Saturday. Notre Dame, winner of its first five starts, entertains Northwestern on Saturday. Minnesota will be at home Wednesday for a non-conference encounter with Michigan State, 34-38 loser to Great Lakes.

In the Eastern Intercollegiate League, Columbia stepped to the front by whipping Cornell in the opener but may have company after Saturday night when Dartmouth, defending champion and top-heavy favorite, collides with Yale at New Haven.

Harvard visits Pennsylvania Saturday night in the only other league tilt of the week, but numerous non-league games are on tap. Dartmouth, which lost to Toledo, 52-74, last night, continues its tour against Wayne at Detroit tomorrow night and Seton Hall at South Orange, N. J., Wednesday.

Tar Heel Swimming Team Announces '43 Schedule

CHAPEL HILL, Jan. 10.—(P)—A schedule of 11 meets, topped by the Southern Conference and National Intercollegiate, was announced today for the University of North Carolina swimming team. The Blue Dolphins have won 17 dual meets and three Southern Conference championships in a row.

The schedule: Jan. 30, V. M. I. at Lexington; Feb. 5, Virginia Tech at Chapel Hill; 10, Navy at Annapolis; 13, A. A. U. meet at Chapel Hill; 17, N. C. State at Chapel Hill; 20, Durham; March 2, Duke and N. C. State at Chapel Hill; 5-6, Southern Conference meet at Lexington, Va.; 12, Georgia Tech at Chapel Hill; 26, N. C. A. A. meet at Ohio State.

That had cut his voice almost to a whisper the last few months. Funeral arrangements will not be made until Bob is informed of his father's death.

POLICE BREAK UP GAMBLING OUTFIT

Eight white men were arrested on charges of gambling and two men were apprehended on charges of running a gambling house when police raided a newstand and soda shop at 308 North Front street shortly after 3 a. m. Sunday morning.

Bill Madone and Lewis Bray, allegedly responsible for running the gambling spot, were released on cash bonds of \$250 pending their appearance in county recorder's court.

Released on \$25 bonds and charged with being participants in gambling activities were J. E. Parker, R. A. Bowen, Harold Martin, J. E. Smith, W. B. Baceus, Buck Wolfe, A. L. King, and B. C. Osborne. They will appear in court along with Madone and Bray.

Ten Men Held After Raid On Newstand And Soda Shop Here

Three members of one family of four were among the killed.

BRITISH BOMBARD BIG KRUPP WORKS

(Continued from Page One) zaire, in the total of six large raids this year.

The Germans raided a southwest coast town killing at least six, injuring others and causing damage. A number were missing in what Press Association called "the worst raid yet experienced in the town." One German plane was downed.

The German planes machine-gunned the streets and dropped bombs. Working class houses were hit and two large apartment houses on the seafrost were wrecked.

Three members of one family of four were among the killed.

SITUATION BAD IN COAL STRIKE

Anthracite Field In Pennsylvania 'Still Up In Air'

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Jan. 10.—(P)—The strike situation in the Pennsylvania anthracite field was "still up in the air" today with no one in authority knowing whether 15,000 to 20,000 striking miners would go back to work tomorrow.

The strikers, who are protesting what they term an unjustified increase of 50 cents a month in union dues, were to vote this afternoon and night on a proposal to go back tomorrow morning following an appeal yesterday by Lt.-Colonel C. W. Kerwood of the War Department.

"I think some of the men may go back," declared Mike Kosik, president of district one of the United Mine Workers, where most of the strikers are located. "But I was told last night by representatives of three collieries that they definitely would not go back."

These collieries, which Kosik identified as the South Wilkes-Barre, Woodward and Nottingham of the Glen-Alden coal company, employ about 4,000 men.

U. S. BOMBERS HIT HARD AT TRIPOLI

(Continued from Page One) ed the squeeze being clamped on Rommel.

(Coordinating with the U. S. attack were day and night RAF assaults on the African corps along a 180-mile stretch between Tripoli and the Wadi Zem-zem, where the British Eighth Army has been drawing up for attack. Increasing German nervousness and assertions from Berlin that the British were preparing for a full scale attack were reminiscent of the Axis reports a few days before Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery renewed his offensive recently at El Agheila.)

Meanwhile it was announced that Vice-Admiral William Glassford, Jr., had arrived in Algiers from Dakar, and was conferring with Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Glassford headed a U. S. mission to Dakar, strategic West African port, last month.

Indicating the ferocity of aerial warfare on the Tunisian front, Twelfth Air Force headquarters announced that American forces destroyed 35 Axis planes and damaged 40 others in the week of January 2-8 against the loss of only 12.

"Our B-26's (Martin Marauders), escorted by P-38's attacked the airfield ten miles west of Tripoli and scored direct hits on the hangars and a military objective nearby," a 12th Air Force spokesman said, telling of the Tripoli raid. "Three Messerschmitt 109's which attempted to interfere were badly damaged and all our planes returned safely."

(French troops in the Pont-du-Fahs area of central Tunisia repulsed another tank-supported enemy attack, a communique from Gen. Henri Giraud's headquarters broadcast by the Morocco radio said.)

(Infantry troops shot down an enemy plane in that action, the communique said, and east of Kairouan French patrols attacked an enemy spot, capturing some 15 German soldiers. Patrol activity along the entire line was reported.)

An Allied army spokesman said there was nothing to report on the northern land front in Tunisia in the last 24 hours, but in Libya it appeared that a contraction of the Axis lines was in order shortly.

Many observers at Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters believe Tripoli itself is indefensible and that the German marshal and his African corps must attempt to withdraw into Tunisia along the supply route on which Sousse, Gabes and Sfax have been consistent targets.

These observers said the concentrated Allied air attacks Friday apparently anticipated this move and were aimed to cut his supplies and weaken his retreat before the British Eighth Army in Libya.

U. S. KNOCKS DOWN 133 JAP PLANES

(Continued from Page One) ed them as negligible compared to those of the enemy.

The air battle over the convoy reached its crescendo on the third day, Friday, when 58 Japanese planes were put out of action, 30 destroyed outright.

Throughout the three furious days, while fighter planes were locked in combat in the upper air, American heavy Flying Fortress and Liberators bombers and the lighter Marauders, Billy Mitchells and Beauforts swept in against the concentrated fire of six Japanese warships to spew their explosives on the dodging, twisting convoy.

So heavy was the aerial traffic over the ships that at times Allied fighters were unable to swoop low enough to carry out strafing attacks, the Allied announcement said. Even after the Jap convoy reached Lae the aerial assault continued. There was no estimate of the number of enemy troops who survived.

From the start of the melee Wednesday evening, when Allied bombers made their initial attack on the convoy near Gasimata, New Britain, the destruction of Japanese fighters was swift and deadly. Eight Lightnings pounced on 14 Zeros protecting the ill-fated convoy and quickly shot nine of them into the water. Three other Zeros probably were destroyed and the two survivors were damaged.

With that as a pattern, the American pilots in their Lightnings and Kittyhawks spent the next two days knocking Zeros down like clay pigeons. One formation of 14 Kittyhawks shot down 16 Zeros against the loss of only one plane, and the pilot parachuted to safety.

Throughout the running engagement the Allied bombers also took a steady toll of the Zeros which tried fruitlessly to fight them away from the convoy, the Allied announcement said. In a typical 15-minute scrap a squadron of Mitchells met an attack of 15 to 20 Zeros and sent five crashing into Lae harbor and probably destroyed two others.

The Japanese transports withdrew from the harbor under cover of darkness after unloading. Fires in the harbor were said in the Allied communique to have been visible for 50 miles.

General MacArthur, considering the campaign in Papua closed despite the fact that a pocket of Japanese still is entrenched at Sanananda point in the Buna area, has returned to his general headquarters here.

N. C. SOLONS OPEN FIRST FULL WEEK

(Continued from Page One) House, instead of the usual majority, to override a committee or the chair. Rep. Umstead of Orange introduced a measure, however, to substitute a majority for the two-thirds rule.

Also before Senate and House were bills to provide for a statewide nine-months school term on an optional basis, recommended Wednesday by Governor Broughton in his biennial message.

The chief executive will deliver his budget message Tuesday or Wednesday. Then the money committees can get down to work.

3 Negro Men Robbed Of \$150 At Hostelry

Three Negro men, guests of the Green Lantern hotel, reported to police Sunday that they were robbed of a total of \$150 sometime during Saturday night.

The theft victims, former Marines discharged from service because of physical disabilities reported the following amounts as stolen from their rooms: August Faby, New Orleans, La., \$75; Oscar Cooper, Fort Worth, Texas, \$30; and W. H. Marks, Lake Charles, La., \$40.

RADIOS SPORTING GOODS PICKARDS 209 Market St. Dial 8224

NOTICE City & County Tax Payers

1942 taxes are past due, will start garnishment of wages for unpaid personal property tax after Jan. 15th, 1943. Pay your personal property tax now, and save garnishment of wages. C. R. MORSE, City and County Tax Collector.